

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS - STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION EFFORTS****NATIONAL WATER SAFETY FORUM SWITZERLAND – A MEASURE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY**

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**11.4 CONCURRENT - PREVENTION, DURBAN ICC - ROOM - LION, OCTOBER 10, 2019, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

In Switzerland, since the beginning of the 20th century, various actors have been involved in one way or another in drowning prevention and water rescue: associations, foundations, public bodies.

Since 1933, the drowning rate in Switzerland has fallen from 5.29 to 0.55 today. In order to maintain and, if possible, further reduce this drowning rate - despite increasing risk exposure -, it is necessary for the activities of the different actors to be better coordinated. The basis for this is a common understanding of «drowning», of possible intervention strategies and a commitment to certain principles of activity.

Inspired by the WHO Global Report on drowning, the Swiss Lifesaving Society (SLRG) and the Swiss Council for Accident Prevention (bfu) 2015 have entered into a cooperation to actively tackle this challenge.

This partnership has resulted in an annual exchange platform for the various stakeholders, an annual publication on the current situation of drownings, risk factors etc. and a charter for participating stakeholders.

In addition a structured (online-)collection of drowning prevention measures is developed. This gives the various actors the opportunity to present themselves and to compare their own measures with those of other organizations.

Since the prevention of drowning in Switzerland is not a direct task of any public authority and there is no corresponding public funding, the effective cooperation of private (NPO) actors is even more important. This requires leadership, a uniform understanding of drowning and drowning prevention as well as jointly defined principles of cooperation. This has been achieved in recent years in Switzerland.